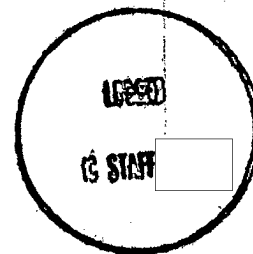


Deputy Director For Requirements and Evaluation
Intelligence Community Staff
Washington, D.C. 20505

ICS 7125-88
24 June 1988



NOTE FOR: Mr. Curtis Kamman
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, INR

SUBJECT: Gauging an Issue

25X1

This note asks you a set of basic questions.

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Attached is a one-page point paper about an issue which came up at the DCI's Off-Site Conference for senior managers. The issue is plugging holes in our coverage and use of resources, given the current NFIP and the prospects for future austerity.

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I would appreciate it if you would give me a sense of your answers to the questions of the bottom of this point paper. A phone call will do. If we engage formally, I will write to you for an input in writing.

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Thanks for your help.

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Attachment:
As Stated

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25X1

20 June 1988

Point Paper Regarding the Search for "High-Value" Initiatives

- o Over the last year or so, pressure has been intensifying on the Intelligence Community to get the most for its money. This will continue and likely will get worse.
- o One manifestation of this pressure is the whole effort called "setting priorities."
- o And in that context, one of the key features, about which everyone worries and has at least one war story to cite, is the set of topics or subjects where coverage is obviously important, but does not exist and is both easy and ridiculously inexpensive to achieve.
- o This could encompass collection, processing, exploitation, research, analysis, production, or dissemination.
- o One example of this is the practical absence of collection coverage of the in the USSR. 25X1
- o Another example is the practical absence of any capability to translate much or all of this material.
- o These examples, in addition to being relatively cheap and easy to fix, are embarrassing in the sense that the average person would expect US intelligence to not be in such situations.
- o Thus, the potential question arises: are there any examples of any similar opportunities which are clearly important, easy to implement, and ridiculously cheap?
- o The next situation in which we will have a chance to look at this issue will be the review of the FY 1990-1994 NFIP, coming up this late summer and autumn.
- o The focus here is on those initiatives which arguably really do belong in the NFIP--rather than the more speculative or risky initiatives, which are candidates for Production Enhancement Initiatives (PEIs).
- o Before we engage in any of this, however, we need to gauge:
 - Do you think this would be useful?
 - Do you have the time to help?
 - Who else should we ask?
 - Got any good ideas right now?

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